



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 23 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: 700 MHz Interoperable Broadband Public Safety Network. WT Docket No. 06-150; PS
Docket No. 06-229; WP Docket No. 07-100

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) filed Comments with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) on behalf of the Administration in the above-referenced proceeding on June 10, 2011.¹ In those Comments, the Administration demonstrated that a single nationwide architecture would permit a continuous and unified nationwide prioritization and Quality of Service (QoS) scheme. Prioritization and QoS mechanisms will afford the Public Safety Broadband Corporation, as envisioned in the American Jobs Act of 2011, appropriate flexibility to respond to individual emergencies and changing circumstances in coordination with State, local, and Federal entities.² The Administration's Comments also encouraged the Commission to play a key role in assessing the development and use of open – as opposed to proprietary – mechanisms for these features.

NTIA clarifies that the Administration's Comments are consistent with the Commission's proposed Allocation Retention Priority (ARP), QoS Class Identifier and Access Class barring requirements for standards-based solutions, as provided in the 3G PP Long Term Evolution

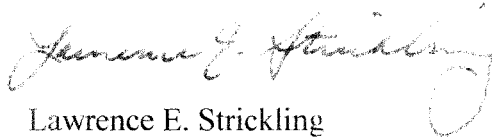
¹ Comments of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, WT Docket No. 06-150 (filed June 10, 2011), *available at* http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/ntia_public_safety_network_comments_06102011.pdf (“Administration's Comments”).

² *Id.* at 16-17. *See also* S.1549, 112th Cong., 1st Session (2011), “American Jobs Act of 2011” *available at* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112s1549pcs/pdf/BILLS-112s1549pcs.pdf>. The American Jobs Act is an Obama Administration proposal introduced by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Sept. 13, 2011. The bill, among other provisions, would create a new Public Safety Broadband Corporation to build, operate and maintain a nationwide public safety broadband network. It would also require the Corporation to consult with State, local and Tribal jurisdictions on a number of issues, including prioritization. “Strengthening Public-safety and Enhancing Communications Through Reform, Utilization, and Modernization Act,” is a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Rockefeller and Hutchison that contains similar provisions. S. 911, 112th Cong., 1st Sess. (2011).

(LTE) standards.³ However, NTIA reiterates that application of proprietary mechanisms to features critical to interoperability such as prioritization and QoS raise particular concerns.⁴ Therefore, NTIA encourages the Commission to prohibit any entity authorized to operate a public safety broadband system from employing prioritization and QoS features that are not embodied in the LTE standard.

I look forward to working with you as the Commission continues to develop its rules for an interoperable public safety broadband network. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me or Deputy Assistant Secretary Anna M. Gomez.

Sincerely,



Lawrence E. Strickling

³ See 3GPP Standard, Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access, Release 8 and associated Evolved Packet Core available at <http://www.3gpp.org/Release-8>; Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band; Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules, *Third Report and Order and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 11-6, ¶ 46, 76 Fed. Reg. 10295 (2011).

⁴ Administration Comments, *supra* note 1, at 17.